

Annual Report
Montana State Special Education Advisory Panel
July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006



**Prepared by the Montana Office of Public Instruction
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Chair's Report


The State Special Education Advisory Panel had a challenging and very productive year. In October, John Copenhaver, Director of Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center (MPRRC), and Bob Runkel, Director of Special Education, met with new state special education advisory panel members immediately prior to the first Panel meeting to familiarize them with previous Panel activities, availability of resources and the Panel's By-laws and procedures. This orientation was instrumental in ensuring that new members on the Panel had the necessary background information to fully participate in the activities of the Panel from the very first meeting.

The Panel held its first meeting in October. The Panel met separately the first half-day and then held its annual joint meeting with the state Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) Council. The joint meeting, facilitated by John Copenhaver of Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center (MPRRC), was instrumental in identifying and planning professional development strategies to address the performance indicators in the State Performance Plan.

The Panel reviewed statewide data on performance indicators for students with disabilities and following discussion of proposed targets and improvement strategies for inclusion in the State Performance Plan, unanimously approved the targets established for each of the 20 performance indicators and endorsed submission of the plan to the U.S. Department of Education. As a part of our Panel activities, we invited personnel from other divisions within the Office of Public Instruction, as well as personnel from other agencies and programs, to share their knowledge. Such discussions provided a rich foundation for the coordination of improvement strategies.

The Panel meeting held at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind was an especially rewarding experience. Panel members visited classrooms and learned both from the students and staff how instructional needs are met through technology and other instructional modifications. It was gratifying to learn and see how the school addresses students' needs both through the provision of instruction at the school, as well as through its outreach services and opportunities for full mainstreaming of students.

Submitted by:



WyAnn Northrop, Chair
Montana Special Education Advisory Panel

8-11-06
Date

McCulloch on an annual basis for up to a maximum of a three-year term limit. Following is the 2005-2006 membership list of the panel and the areas they represented:

Dave Mahon	State/Local Administrator
Robert Maffit	Business Concerned with Transitions
Diana Colgrove*	Part C/IDEA Representative
Norma Wadsworth	Higher Education
Janet Jansen**	Regular Classroom Teacher
Bob Peake	State Agency
WyAnn Northrop***	Teacher of Children with Disabilities
Gary Perleberg	Parent of a Child with Disabilities
Ron Fuller	Juvenile and Adult Corrections
Holly Raser	Legislator
Amy McCord	Private School Representative
Cody Sinnott	Student Representative
Dick Slonaker	Special Education, Program Administrator
Barb Rolf	Representative of Other State Agencies
	Involved in the Financing or Delivery of Related Services to Children with Disabilities
Terry Teichrow	Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney- Vento Homeless Assistance Act
Coral Beck	State Child Welfare Agency Responsible for Foster Care

- * Incoming Chair
- ** Secretary
- *** Panel Chair

MEETINGS

The Special Education Advisory Panel met four times during state fiscal year FY'06 on the following dates.

November 17-18, 2005
April 18-19, 2006

February 9-10, 2006
June 22-23, 2006

Three of the meetings were held in Helena and one of the meetings was held at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB).

Notices of panel meetings were sent to local newspapers and placed on the Office of Public Instruction's Web site. A public comment period was made available at each meeting and accommodations provided, when requested.

PANEL FOCUS

The panel focused its activities this year on the following areas:

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Reauthorization;
Student Information System, Data Warehouse and the Special Education Records
Information Management System (SERIMS)
Montana State Performance Plan Indicators;
IEP "Short Form"
OSEP Monitoring

In addition, the panel had presentations on topics that were of immediate relevance to improving outcomes for students with disabilities.

To assist the panel in its work, guest speakers were invited to provide presentations on relevant topics and to participate in discussion of the issues. Presentations were made on the following:

- Education Issues Related to Services Provided to Students in the Juvenile Justice System: Process of Apollo youth getting into the system and what happens when a youth is in the system. Law enforcement is the #1 referral agency, although schools and parents can also refer youth.
- Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)—Students with Disabilities: Presentation on the health risk behaviors of Montana students with disabilities.
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act: Subtitle B of Title VII: Presentation of the McKinney-Vento Assistance Act.
- Early Intervention—Part C Services for Infants/Toddlers: Part C Family Education and Support is a program of early intervention services for children with disabilities ages 0-37 months.
- Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB): The Panel meeting was held at the MSBD, where Panel members were able to have an in-class experience with the students.
- Special Education Child Count: Statewide Data: An overview of the data that is collected and how it is collected for special education. The reports include: Child Count, Special Education Personnel, Setting of Service, Exiting, and School Discipline and Assessment.
- The Transition Experience: This presentation showed the results of a young woman's transition from regular school, cane traveling, functional programs, the issue of her blindness, and into the working world.
- OSEP Monitoring: The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), U.S. Department of Education, will visit Montana during the week of September 13-15, 2006.
- "We Teach All" Pilot Project: Capital High School program to provide educators with resources and strategies to implement practices that support learning for a diverse population of learners.

- Response to Intervention (RtI) Project: Why Now, What Is "It," and How Do We Do "It."
- Expressions of Silence: Students from the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind Perform with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.
- Indian Education for All: Ongoing Initiatives for all students in all Montana schools learning about Montana's first people.
- Parent Involvement Requirements Under NCLB: Presentation regarding the requirement for involving parents under NCLB.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 2005-2006 SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL

In its role as the advisory/steering committee for the self-assessment process and the Annual Performance Report under Part B of IDEA, the Panel:

- Reviewed statewide data on performance indicators for students with disabilities;
- Held a joint meeting with the State Council for Comprehensive System of Personnel Development for the purpose of reviewing and making joint recommendations for professional development activities designed to improve instruction and student outcomes;
- Heard presentations and participated in discussions on issues affecting the outcomes for students with disabilities;
- The Panel reviewed the Indicators Focusing on FAPE in the LRE and accepted targets for Indicators 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13,14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20.
- Reviewed and endorsed a 25-question survey to address the Parent Involvement performance indicator (Indicator #8).

WyAnn Northrop, incoming panel chair, attended the Office of Special Education Programs Leadership (OSEP) Conference in Washington, D.C.

Recognition

The panel wishes to recognize the following individuals for their presentations and provision of resource materials to assist the panel in its work:

John Copenhaver, Director, MPRRC

Office of Public Instruction Staff

Robert Runkel
Marlene Wallis
Frank Podobnik

Marilyn Pearson
Susan Bailey-Anderson
Dick Trerise

Tim Harris
Linda McCulloch
Cathy Kendall

Francisco Roman	Nikki Sandve	Lynn Hinch
Doug Doty	Dan McCarthy	Anne Lowney
Mike Chapman	Pat Reichert	Spencer Sartorius
Nancy Coopersmith	Dan McCarthy	
BJ Granbery	Mike Waterman	
Lori Falcon	Susan Court	

Sib Clack, Maternal and Child Health, Supervisor, Data Monitoring

Cleo Klepzig, Parent

Donna Maddox, Parents, Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK)

Virginia DeLand, Parents, Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK)

Steve Gettel, Superintendent, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind

Gail McGregor, University of Montana—Rural Institute

Sarah Eyer, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind

Barb Rolf, Outreach Vision Specialist

Erica Swanson, Part C Coordinator, DPHHS

Dennis Moore, Director, Parents, Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK)

Dolores Slovarp, Project STRIDE, Independent Contractor

Tim Kelly, English Teacher, Capital High School

State Comprehensive System Of Personnel Development Council Members

Marlene Wallis, Office of Public Instruction, for the support she provided to the panel by taking excellent minutes, providing materials and making meeting arrangements.